

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 SS-15 SSO-00 AID-05
NSC-05 NSCE-00 A-01 EA-07 AF-10 /069 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS:JS
APPROVED BY D/HA - PATT DERIAN
NEA - MR. VELIOTES
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. BEYER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
S/ - AWOTTO

-----172343Z 050419 /75

O 172303Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113285

GENEVA FOR S/S - FOR THE SECRETARY FROM DERIAN AND VELIOTES

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMO FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ICRC
PRESIDENT HAY

REF: STATE 112174

FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SHOULD BE ADDED TO REFTEL
BRIEFING MEMO:

1) CHECKLIST:

MIDDLE EAST -- ICRC RECENTLY COMPLETED EXCHANGE OF
EGYPTIAN POW'S FOR ISRAELI DEAD
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OCCUPIED TERRITORIES -- ICRC CONCERNED ABOUT ISRAEL'S
REFUSAL TO APPLY GENEVA CONVENTION

SYRIA -- CONCERN ABOUT DETAINEES

2) ISSUES/TALKING POINTS:

-- MIDDLE EAST: THE ICRC RECBNTLY COMPLETED AN EXCHANGE OF EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL HELD IN ISRAEL FOR ISRAELI DEAD FROM THE 1973 WAR.

U.S. POSITION: US OFFICIALS WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAEL AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS AND WITH THE ICRC CONCERNING THIS EXCHANGE, WHICH STEMMED FROM A SADAT-KISSINGER DISCUSSION IN 1975.

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: THE ICRC HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO APPLY THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949 (CIVILIANS) IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE ICRC MAINTAINED A SMALL DELEGATION IN THE AREA, BUT HAS BEEN POWERLESS TO PREVENT FORCIBLE SEARCHES AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE CONVENTION.

U.S. POSITION: THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD OBSERVE THE GENEVA CONVENTION PROVISIONS RELATING TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WE DO NOT APPROVE ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF THE CONVENTION; ON THE OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE POLICE POWER TO A REASONABLE DEGREE TO PRESERVE PUBLIC SECURITY.

SYRIA:

-- PRESIDENT HAY ASKED TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT ASSAD IN GENEVA MAY 9 TO UNDERSCORE THE ICRC'S CONCERN ABOUT LARGE NUMBERS OF DETAINEES IN SYRIA, CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUDING LEBANESE AND PLO, TO WHOM THE ICRC HAS HAD NO ACCESS. PRESIDENT HAY EXPECTS TO VISIT DAMASCUS IN JUNE TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH ASSAD.

U.S. POSITION: THE ICRC HAS DESCRIBED THE DIMENSIONS OF THIS PROBLEM TO EMBASSY, DAMASCUS. WE HAVE VIRTUALLY NO COLLABORATIVE INFORMATION OF OUR OWN, BUT HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT ICRC BELIEFS THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL. SOME MAY BE FEDAYEEN AND OTHER TROUBLE MAKERS FROM LEBANON. THIS IS A VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE IN SYRIA AND, WHILE CONTINUING TO SHOW A SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN ICRC INVESTIGATIONS, WE SHOULD NOT IMPLY OUR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT ICRC DEMARCHES AT THIS TIME. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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